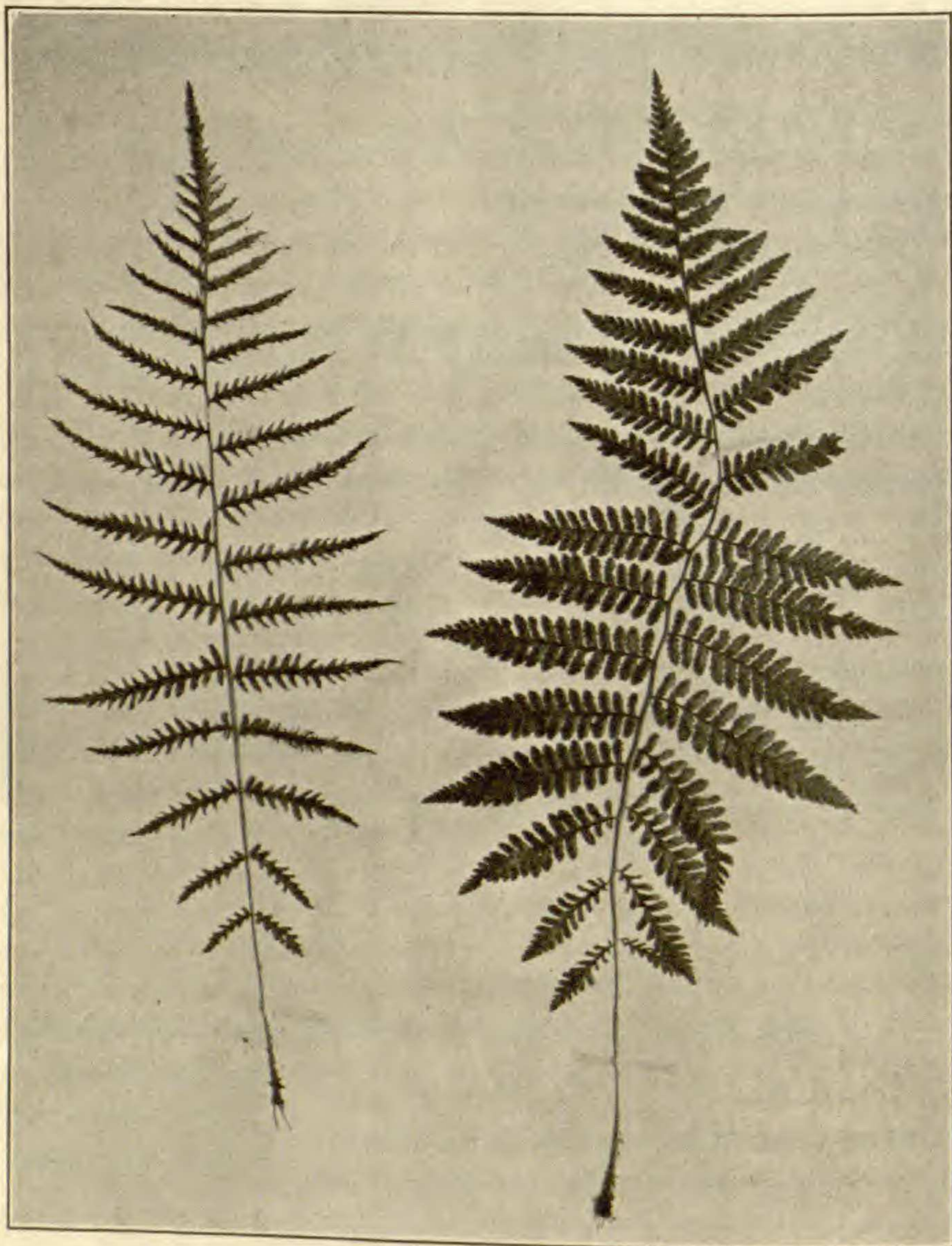


reported a somewhat similar case from Washington. There, salesmen went from door to door, vending plants of *Selaginella lepidophylla*, "obviously from Mexico, with the following label, amusing to anyone who recognizes the origin of the plant. Its alleged insecticidal properties seem due to a trace of some cinnamon-like perfume which has been added." Here is the text of the label; we do not reproduce its "scare-heads."

"World's Greatest Curiosity. Resurrection Plant or Rose of Jericho. Always Alive. Sempre Viva. The Finest Decorative Plant yet Introduced. Grows Rapidly and Never Dies. Unique, Beautiful and Interesting. A Handsome Ornament for the House, Office, Conservatory. Mentioned by Isaiah in the Bible. This grand novelty was discovered in the Holy Land and found in the interior of Egypt. Place one in a dish of water and you can see it grow in 20 minutes. Cover it all with water for 20 hours, after it is open just cover the roots with water. Grows all the year round. Any time you want to move throw the plant in the sun and it will roll up again in a dry ball. Place one of the dry balls in your trunk or valise and it will perfume your clothing and will destroy all insects. Price 25c straight."

ONE JOYFUL AFTERNOON AND ITS SPOILS.—Late in the fall of 1924, Miss Kittredge and I made an excursion to a mountain about a mile from town (Proctor, Vermont), which resulted in what we then thought two first-finds, and most fortunate did we count ourselves as we bore our treasures home.

Miss Kittredge was triumphant in the find of the most wonderful Christmas fern we had ever seen or heard of. We afterwards learned it was *Polystichum acrostichoides*, forma *multifidum* Clute. We were at first informed that it had been found but once before and that



“SKELETONIZED” AND NORMAL FRONDS FROM THE SAME ROOT OF  
LADY FERN.

in 1906 in Connecticut, but later learned that several other stations had been reported, and that Mrs. H. E. Heselton had discovered it ten years before in Vermont, at Barnard.

As we were hurrying jubilantly home with this precious find, I came upon what appeared to be *Athyrium Filix-femina*, but what I pronounced to be a skeleton fern. The leaf-tissue of the fronds was so reduced that little was left but the veins. It looked as if it were decaying, or had been eaten, but so unusual that I brought it home and set it out in my fern garden. The next spring it produced the same sort of fronds; I gave some to Mr. Weatherby, who thought it might be pathological.

It has continued, however, to produce the queer fronds. Last fall I moved to another part of the town and removed my ferns to some real woods adjoining my house. The "Skeleton Fern" is thriving beautifully; there its color is very noticeably darker than that of others of its species.

It usually has some nearly or quite normal fronds, as well as skeletonized ones; in at least one year (1927; I had not noticed before) the normal ones came later in the season. The accompanying illustration shows the two kinds.

Has anyone come upon this form before?

A later trip to the same section of the mountain rewarded us with a most interesting *Dryopteris cristata* × *marginalis* growing from a crevice of a boulder in a large open space. I do not recall that either parent fern was in sight, but this I cannot state with certainty.—  
MAUDE L. CHISHOLM, *Proctor, Vermont.*

IMPERFECTLY CIRCINATE VERNATION IN FERNS.—Appropos of my note on this subject (in this JOURNAL, vol.